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**ABSTRACT**

The invention relates to new expression systems and in particular to an expression system in which a gene of interest is expressed at an optimal level. The invention provides a recombinant expression vector comprising a gene of interest and a selectable marker gene, wherein the selectable marker gene is arranged downstream of the gene of interest and a stop codon associated with the gene of interest is spaced from a start codon of said selectable marker gene at a distance which is sufficient to ensure that translation reinitiation is required before said selectable marker protein is expressed from the corresponding mRNA . Examples of such expression systems are vector viral packaging cell lines and a number of preferred cell lines have been identified.

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